

**WYCOMBE** Wanderers practically assured themselves of the Shaw and Kilburn Floodlit League title at Banbury Stadium on Tuesday when they held the home side to a 1-1 draw in 90 minutes packed with incident.

Wanderers are three points ahead of Banbury with each side having two games left to play. Even if they finish level on points, which is unlikely, Wycombe's far superior goal difference will keep them ahead.

The pitch was only passed marginally fit for play after a day of continuous rain and the surface was quickly churned into a quagmire after the game had got under way.

Wycombe were soon in action with a stinging low shot from Mick Holifield in the second minute that Alan Hyatt saved low down at the far post.

Then Banbury were rescued by Steve Montgomery in the seventh minute when a poor clearance from Matthews was picked up by Tony Horseman and a goal seem-

## Banbury 1, Wycombe Wanderers 1

ed inevitable until Montgomery's saving tackle on the Wycombe number 11.

Then it was Wycombe's turn to get lucky in the 16th minute when Banbury striker Richard Jarvis stroked the ball into the net with Chris Smith yards off his line. Referee Mr Robert Dyer of Fenny Compton, awarded a goal but then noticed the linesman flagging on the far side. After a consultation he reversed his decision and awarded Wycombe a free-kick for off-side.

### KENNEDY ROCKET

Howard Kennedy put Wycombe in front in the

18th minute when he scored direct from a 20 yard free-kick with an unstoppable shot into the top corner of the net.

Derek Harris had a glorious chance to put his side two goals in front in the next minute when he took the ball round a Banbury defender to leave himself a clear shot at goal. But he muscled badly on a greasy surface and his shot almost hit the corner flag.

Later Wycombe had a second let-off when Terry Evans beat Smith with a close range shot only to see the ball smack against a post and rebound. Paul Warrington drove it back again but Smith dived low to make a

smart save in a crowded goalmouth.

There were loud Wycombe shouts for a penalty when Matthews appeared to push Harris off the ball well inside the penalty area in the 35th minute but the referee would have none of it. Banbury looked a shade lucky to get away with it.

Near the interval Harris drove in two tremendous shots that Hyatt saved to the applause of a meagre home crowd.

Wycombe started the second half where they left off in the first and Banbury defender Derek Evans raced back to kick off the line from Harris with the goalkeeper well beaten.

Then Kennedy hit the top of the Banbury bar with a long looping cross that deceived everyone. Kennedy again shot smartly but was a fraction off target with the 'keeper at the other end of his line.

Banbury drew level in the 81st minute after Barnes had bowled over Warrington as he raced into the area. From the penalty spot Wally Hastie sent Smith diving the wrong way with an immaculate shot.

The last few minutes belonged to Banbury and with steadier finishing might have pulled off a surprise victory. Both Derek Evans and substitute Cliff Campbell missed from close range.

**BANBURY:** Hyatt, Montgomery, D. Evans, Matthews, Dovers, Jarvis, Pollard, Warrington, T. Evans (sub Campbell), Callow. Other sub: Piercewright (not used).

**WYCOMBE:** C. Smith, P. Birdseye, R. Davies, D. Barnes, R. Strong, R. Day, H. Kennedy, M. Holifield, D. Harris, A. Horseman (sub G. Mackenzie 61 mins). Other sub Priestley (not used).

**Referee:** R. F. Dyer (Fenny Compton). **Half-time** 0-1. **Scorers:** Wycombe — Kennedy (18 mins); Banbury — Hastie (81 penalty).

# Three games postponed

**THE** recent heavy rain has taken its toll of the sporting programme and no club has suffered more than Wycombe Wanderers, who have had three of their five games this week called off because of waterlogged pitches.

The first casualty was the Isthmian League encounter at Barking on Monday, when some fans travelled to Mayesbrook Park only to see the ground under water.

The Loakes Park pitch took a terrible pounding from Tuesday's torrent and in order to preserve it for today's (Friday) Isthmian League match at home to Sutton United, the club postponed the games against Aylesbury United and Millwall on Wednesday and Thursday night respectively.

Wycombe had no option but they will be sad to lose the friendly with the Football League Division 2 relegation Houdinis. The match which was part of the deal when Ian Pearson joined Millwall will now be played as a warm-up before next season.

The other games called off, have been provisionally arranged for next week. Blues are already playing Witney on Monday, and they now expect to entertain Aylesbury on Wednesday. Should they win one of these two games they would clinch the Shaw and Kilburn Floodlit League title.

It seems that the visit to Barking will now be on Saturday May 13, a full week after the Cup Final, the date by which all teams had been hoping to finish their fixture list.

### VICTORY VITAL

Tomorrow Isthmian game with Sutton is a game Blues must win if they are to collect the third prize of £300. If they drop some points, Tooting and Mitcham are there waiting to pounce and overtake the Blues who have finished this season with something of a splutter.

This had been caused largely by injuries to goalkeeper Peter Spittle (groin) and Keith Mead (ankle), both of whom will miss the Sutton match.

John Maskell, despite a slight shoulder injury, will go into goal, while Howard Kennedy, who has been playing well since his return, could keep his place in mid-field.

Manager John Reardon may experiment by bringing John Priestley to full-back and switching Bobby Davies into the centre of the back, because of his fine heading ability.

After the Sutton match, Wycombe are staging a Players Film Race Night in the clubhouse. There is a bar extension to 1 a.m. and all proceeds for the evening will go to the Players Tour Fund.



**HOWARD KENNEDY**  
... Blues scorer